

Message Text

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U.S. MTN

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TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, MTN, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE PROPOSALS TO INCREASE BEEF EXPORTS TO
U.S.

SUMMARY

A TECHNICAL MEETING BETWEEN USDA AND ARGENTINE
VETERINARIANS WAS HELD AT USDA ON MAY 16 TO DISCUSS
ARGENTINE PROPOSALS TO INCREASE BEEF EXPORTS TO THE U.S.
AS IT HAS DONE REPEATEDLY IN PAST, USDA RESPONDED
NEGATIVELY TO PROPOSALS FOR RECOGNITION OF FOOT AND MOUTH
DISEASE FREE ZONES IN ARGENTINA AND TIERRA DEL FUEGO AND TO
ENTRY OF BONELESS FRESH OR FROZEN BEEF FROM ARGENTINA.

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ARGENTINA AGREED TO CONDUCT TESTS FOR USDA TECHNICIANS RE-
GARDING WITNESS PIECES FOR COOKED AND COOKED CURED BEEF IN
A U.S. PLANT. USDA WILL THEN REVIEW RESULTS AND DECIDE IF
THEY CAN MODIFY CURRENT REQUIREMENTS ON SIZE OF PIECES AND/
OR PERMIT CURED COOKED BEEF IMPORTS FROM ARGENTINA.

1. A TECHNICAL MEETING BETWEEN USDA VETERINARIANS, A RE-

PRESENTATIVE FROM BOTH STATE AND STR, AND ARGENTINE VETERINARIANS, EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND MTN DELEGATE RAIMONDI TO DISCUSS ARGENTINE PROPOSALS TO INCREASE BEEF EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WAS HELD AT USDA ON MAY 16. ARGENTINE MTN DELEGATE

RAIMONDI PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) U.S. RECOGNIZE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE FREE ZONES WITHIN ARGENTINA AND RECOGNIZE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE FREE STATUS OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO.
- 2) U.S. PERMIT ENTRY OF BONELESS CHILLED AND FROZEN BEEF CUTS FROM ARGENTINA.
- 3) ARGENTINE COOKED STEAKS AND GROUND BEEF, CONTAINING A WITNESS PIECE OF THE PRODUCT LARGE ENOUGH TO DETERMINE THE ABSENCE OF "PINK JUICE," BE PERMITTED TO ENTER U.S.
- 4) FROZEN CURED BEEF IN TUBES FROM ARGENTINA BE PERMITTED ENTRY WITH AN UNCURED WITNESS SAMPLE ISOLATED BY POLYFILM. THE WITNESS SAMPLE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN COLOR CONTAMINATED BY THE SODIUM NITRATE USED IN CURING BUT WOULD HAVE BEEN COOKED WITH THE REST OF THE MEAT IN THE TUBE ALLOWING THE PINK JUICE TEST TO BE PERFORMED ON THE COOKED WITNESS SAMPLE.

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2. DR. CHALOUX, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR VETERINARY SERVICES, USDA RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT RECOGNIZE PARTS OF COUNTRIES TO BE FREE FROM FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE WHEN OTHER PARTS ARE INFECTED. WE KNOW OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN CONTROLLING MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS WITHIN A TERRITORY. EVEN WHEN THE ECONOMIC INCENTIVES ARE LOW SUCH MOVEMENTS TAKE PLACE. THE VERY PROXIMITY OF ONE AREA TO ANOTHER INFECTED WITH FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AND THE FACT THAT THEY BELONG TO THE SAME GOVERNMENT UNIT CREATES AN UNACCEPTABLE RISK. IF AN INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY WERE INVOLVED WE WOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN SUCH CONTROLS. THE ONLY PARTS OF COUNTRIES THAT WE HAVE RECOGNIZED HAVE BEEN SEPARATED BY MANY MILES AND HAVE BEEN AUTONOMOUS ISLAND GOVERNMENTS THAT SET THEIR OWN RULES AND REGULATIONS AND AS SUCH WE FEEL ARE PROTECTED FROM THE PARENT COUNTRY.

3. DR. CHALOUX DID PROMISE TO REVIEW THE ARGENTINE PROPOSAL AGAIN AND TO TALK WITH THE HEAD OF THE ARGENTINE MEAT SERVICES, DR. GRAY, AT AN UPCOMING MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF EPIZOTICS IN PARIS, FRANCE REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISEASE FREE ZONE IN ARGENTINA, BUT NO COMMITMENTS WERE MADE.

4. REGARDING PROPOSAL NO. 2, DR. CHALOIX RESPONDED THAT THE TARIFF ACT OF 1930 SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITS THE UNITED STATES FROM IMPORTING FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN MEAT FROM FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE INFECTED COUNTRIES.

5. DR. CHALOIX ASKED THE ARGENTINES TO REPEAT THEIR TESTS ON PROPOSALS 3 AND 4 AT A PLANT IN THE UNITED STATES. U.S. TECHNICIANS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO SEE THE TESTING AND STUDY THE RESULTS. IF ALL GOES WELL WE MAY BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE PRODUCT. MR. RAIMONDI AGREED AND HOPED TO HAVE THE TESTING COMPLETED AND USDA'S DECISION BY JULY.

6. FYI - ARGENTINA HAS BEEN PRECLUDED FROM EXPORTING CURED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOKED MEAT TO THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE THE PINK COLOR FROM THE CURING NULLIFIES THE PINK JUICE TEST USED TO DETERMINE IF THE PRODUCT IS SUFFICIENTLY COOKED. THE ARGENTINES ESTIMATED THAT 45 TONS OF CURED COOKED BEEF COULD BE EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES. IN 1977 U.S. IMPORTS OF ARGENTINE BEEF TOTALED 36,385 TONS. VANCE

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